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Tuesday October 24, 2017

Inclusive Excellence

The University of Dayton Office of Diversity and Inclusion has launched a new website to communicate its ongoing efforts, initiatives and programming to promote diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the University.

At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, President Eric F. Spina affirmed the University's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity in the context of its Catholic, Marianist mission, and as an integral part of its strategic vision to become known as the University for the Common Good.

"The new site should give us a strong and sustainable foundation on which to build additional content, as strategic initiatives in diversity and inclusion emerge and advance," said University Provost Paul Benson.

The website will serve as a comprehensive, one-stop shop where anyone can find information about diversity initiatives and programming on campus, view an updated calendar of events and learn more about the office's vision and guiding principles, among

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other features. A link to the website will be on every udayton.edu web page.

"The website will provide users with resources that will assist our efforts tied to inclusive excellence across the institution, and enhance UD's communication about our resolute and demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion," said Lawrence Burnley, vice president for diversity and inclusion.

The University hired Burnley in 2016 as its first vice president for diversity and inclusion. Since then, the office has completed more than two dozen listening and learning sessions with campus groups, alumni and Dayton community leaders.

Burnley's office also helped facilitate a two-day workshop for faculty and staff on best practices in recruitment, hiring and retention to create a more diverse workforce at UD; introduced the inaugural Inclusive Excellence Scholar Residency, a multi-day program to bring experts and scholars in area of diversity, equity and inclusion to campus; and started a diversity mapping process, a data-driven initiative to plot and analyze current diversity efforts, programs and courses.

Throughout the 2017-18 academic year, in addition to launching its website, the office will convene the President's Diversity and Inclusion Assessment Task Force and focus on building intercultural competency throughout the University. The task force is charged with guiding University efforts to achieve diversity-, equity- and inclusion-related goals and objectives; facilitating the development, implementation and analysis of a campus experience/climate survey; and making recommendations for a permanent campus-wide diversity and inclusion committee or council.

For more information, contact Cilla Shindell, executive director of news and communications, at 937-229-3257 or shindell@udayton.edu.

A national publication covering the wind power engineering industry and several local outlets featured the University of Dayton Research Institute's new wind turbine to boost alternative-energy research and educational opportunities. Also, Caroline Waldron Merithew was the subject of a American Historical Association member spotlight and Law.com blog Ahead of the Curve and an op-ed in Inside Higher Ed discussed the School of Law's entry into online education.

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